

'581. Marquis of Chandos, "Were those specimens printed on dry or damp paper?" "We invariably take our proofs on dry paper, and those are the best impressions we get from engravings in relief; the less size there is in the paper, the better the impression, and there is an absence of all size in India paper."

'615. "Are not these instances upon rather thin paper?" "These are mere proof impressions."

The proofs here referred to, as having been printed on thin dry paper, the backs being laved with pure white gum, as adhesive now as when first applied, are the sheets in the possession of the writer, and proffered to collectors as PRINCE ALBERT ESSAYS.

March 30, Mr. (now Sir) Rowland Hill being examined, Mr. John Greene placed the Prince Albert stamps before him.

'1010. "Is that a respectable forgery?" "No, it is not a respectable forgery; in the first place, it is not an imitation of the stamp: it is the head of Prince Albert."

'1011. Mr. Spooner, "That is, not a forgery at all." "I should like to examine this with a magnifying glass, because the security of the other stamp [the Queen's head] depends very much upon its background; it is a particular pattern, which can only be seen by a magnifying glass."

'1012. Marquis of Chandos, "It is engine-turned?" "I believe it is engine-turned."

These few extracts from the Minutes of the Parliamentary inquiry are simply to establish the validity of the PRINCE ALBERT ESSAY, interesting in history and to the collector, as the pivot on which turned the introduction of Archer's patented right of perforation, for which he was paid £4000; and to prove that no fraud has been attempted by the writer. Henry Archer died at Pau, in France, March 2, 1863.

J. H. BURN.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I have read with great interest some remarks made in the April number of your magazine, on chemically transformed stamps. I have another specimen to add to the list of those which make their appearance in blue besides the genuine green. It is the one kreuzer Thurn and Taxis, blue print on white paper, which is mentioned even in the *Standard Catalogue* of Messrs. Bellars and Davie. The postal authorities here have assured me that such a stamp never existed, even as an essay. It will be remarked, that in either of the issues in which this 1 kreuzer blue might be placed there was another blue stamp; in 1859 the 3 kreuzer, and in 1862 the 6 kreuzer stamp had that colour.

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,
F. L.

Darmstadt.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOEL, London.—Hamer's and Scheerenbeck's local Hamburgs are genuine: not so the other names. We retain them, however, in our collection, as specimens of ingenious impudence.

TIMBRE.—The thirty cents stamp of Hong Kong you will find noticed, together with the several values of four and six cents, in our magazine for the month of November last.

C. F., Liverpool.—Your French stamp is one of those figuring on the tops of bon-bon boxes. If found on a letter, it must have been placed there in joke; probably on the first of April.—Your collection must be a very good one, but without examination it would be impossible to give even its approximate value.

SPECIMEN, Bear Street, W.C.—Mr. F. S. Jerningham, Rathfarnham, Dublin, to whom you sent a selection of postage stamps, for which he took care to call at the post office there—but not for your letter requesting payment,—must be nothing more or less than a swindler.

W. V., Alston, Cumberland.—This correspondent received a letter from the United States with postage stamps on it amounting to twenty-nine cents, and a one-cent Inter. Rev., which was postmarked as well as the others. This stamp was placed apart from the rest. He would like information on the subject from any of our qualified readers.

ETON COLLEGE.—We can offer no decided opinion on an unknown stamp without inspection. You describe a French stamp, value one franc, partly blue and partly green. There is a one franc of the empire entirely green. The one to which you allude may be partially discoloured.

* W. W. E., Portishead.—The current penny postage stamp, stamped with the initials of and exclusively used by the Oxford Union Society, is decidedly admissible into albums as a variety. We have seen *unused* specimens in the collections of a few individuals.

GENERAL PEEL, Chesterton.—The 'Colombo' was wrecked on its way to the West, consequently could have contained no Canada stamps.—Nothing but the closest inspection could distinguish a genuine blue essay from a chemical. It seems that there exists a method of turning blue to black, as we often see stamps normally of the former colour make their appearance as black essays. Such is possibly the twopenny English, fourpenny Cape, &c.—The market value of a stamp, as we have remarked before, depends partly on scarcity, partly on conscience.—The postal authorities at Somerset House always stamp *any* value on *unfolded* paper, so that either covers or envelopes can be made up. When envelopes first came into general use in England it was sometimes a subject of commercial plaint that, the body of the letter being separate from the address, there was no proof of such letter having been written to the party professing to have received it; and to this day we believe some mercantile houses make a point of never using envelopes for letters of legal consequence. To remedy this, half sheets of paper were issued, with threads, like the first envelopes, on which was the pink penny stamp, with directions to fold it so that the stamp should appear on the right-hand corner. In accordance, however, with the usual official management, or mismanagement (vide letter to the *Times*, which we well remember reading), no possible exercise of ingenuity could manage to fold the sheet of paper in the manner suggested, the position of the stamp not allowing it. It must be one of these sheets—and exceedingly rare they are—which you have seen. Some time since we used a great many of them, little imagining how valuable they would become.—Your enclosed stamps are all for bills or receipts.—The one penny is simply a hand-marked newspaper stamp.

J. Y., Leicester.—The stamp you kindly forwarded, we mentioned so long ago as in the December number of the magazine. You will find it in Mr. Brown's fifth edition. We will give an engraving of it in the next number.

R. H. O., General Hospital, Nottingham.—Your communication was replied to in our last.—We always return all stamps forwarded us by the publishers.

H. H. H.—Many thanks for your interesting information respecting the Nevis stamps, to the effect that the device is intended to represent the goddess of health, administering the water of a mineral spring existing in the island to a sick person. It is certainly a novel idea,—that of advertising a mineral spring all over the civilized world, by means of postage stamps.

Nov 15/65

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The Standard of the U.S.
presents his compliments
to Miss Norton and is very
sorry that he cannot
comply with her request
as the stamps are kept
strictly for the Society's
private use, but as there
is no pecuniary about
them excepting that they
are marked for protection
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will be no disappoint-
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as it is only the 7^d
 stamp which we use.
 The Steward has put
 two stamps upon this
 letter thinking probably
 two will suffice for
 Miss J. & friend and
 beg to return the stamps

A piece of plate, with a purse of 100 guineas, has been presented to Mr. Thomas Harris, the steward of the Oxford Union Society, in recognition of his valuable services extending over 37 years. *March 1874.*

God bless you all and I hope to
 have been conspicuous among the
 "valuable services" if one may judge
 from this letter.

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